

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAIGON 17615 091132Z

43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 NEA-10 EUR-25 DPW-01 AID-20

DRC-01 /177 W

----- 050767

R 090830Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7849

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL CAN THO

UNCLAS SAIGON 17615

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT THIEU SPEAKS ON CIVILIAN PRISONER ISSUE

WE WISH TO DRAW THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO THE SPEECH THAT PRESIDENT THIEU GAVE OCTOBER 6 IN PHAN RANG CITY, MR-2, AT A CORNERSTONE-LAYING CEREMONY FOR A COURT BUILDING. HE REITERATED THE GVN VIEW THAT "THERE ARE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM" AND OUTLINED THE RATIONALE FOR THAT POSITION. THE TEXT OF A RADIO BROADCAST OF THE SPEECH WAS CARRIED BY FBIS, REFERENCE S 071010. THE FOLLOWING ITEM FROM THE OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS HIGHLIGHTS THE MAIN POINTS:

BEGIN QUOTE. RVN PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU SATURDAY MORNING PRESIDED OVER THE CEREMONY LAYING THE CORNERSTONE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING OF THE NINH THUAN COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE NEAR PHAN RANG CITY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAIGON 17615 091132Z

QUOTE. SPEAKING AT THE EVENT, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE REASSERTED

THAT THERE WERE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE LAW OF THE RVN HAS NO ARTICLE STIPULATING PUNISHMENT FOR THOUGHTS, BUT ONLY ACTION HARMFUL TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY, PUBLIC ORDER, LIFE, AND PROPERTIES OF THE PEOPLE.

QUOTE. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE REPEATED THIS FACT TO CRUSH DOWN ALL DISTORTIONS MADE WITH A MALICE; TO CREATE A BAD IMPRESSION TOWARDS THE DEMOCRATIC REGIME IN SOUTH VIETNAM. HE CONTINUED THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS AND THEIR HENCHMEN, THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT, WERE NOT ELEMENTS OF THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION BUT ONLY THE AGGRESSORS, THE ENEMY OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE.

QUOTE. THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE EXPLAINED IT IS COMMON IN ALL COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD THAT THE LAWS FIX ATRICT PUNITIVE MEASURES FOR THOSE IN THE REAR WHO LEND A HELPING HAND TO THE ENEMY WHEN THE COUNTRY IS INVADED, FOR THEY ARE MERELY TRAITORS.

QUOTE. HE STRESSED THAT AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE JAN. 27 PARIS AGREEMENT AND THE JUNE 13 JOINT COMMUNIQUE, THE COMMUNISTS STILL LAUNCHED STTACKS AGAINST GOVERNMENT POSITIONS, MOST TYPICALLY IN THE CASES OF TONG LE CHAN (BINH LONG), LE MINH (PLEIKU), AND TAY NINH. WHILE THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUED THEIR INVASION OF SOUTH VIETNAM WITH MILITARY FORCES ARMED WITH MODERN WEAPONS SUPPLIED BY RUSSIA AND RED CHINA, AND WHILE INNOCENT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MASSACRED IN MONTAGNARD VILLAGES, IN HUE IN THE 1968 GENERAL OFFENSIVE, ON THE HIGHWAY OF TERROR (QUANG TRI), AND NATIONAL ROUTE 13 (BINH LONG), THEIR HENCHMEN IN THE REAR CONTINUED THEIR TERRORISM AND LOOTING OF PEOPLE'S PROPERTIES. THESE SABOTEURS, WHEN BEING CAUGHT AND TRIED, WERE JUST TRAITORS OR ROBBERS, NOT POLITICAL PRISONERS. END QUOTE.
MARTIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON17615
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731043/aaaabfqd.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: S 071010. THE FOLLOWING ITEM FROM TH, E OFFICIAL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT THIEU SPEAKS ON CIVILIAN PRISONER ISSUE WE WISH TO DRAW THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO THE SPEECH THAT
TAGS: PINT, PINS, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005